

LIBERTY

Published by the Libertarian Party of Colorado

Winter 2003

Littleton Voters Repeal Grocery Tax

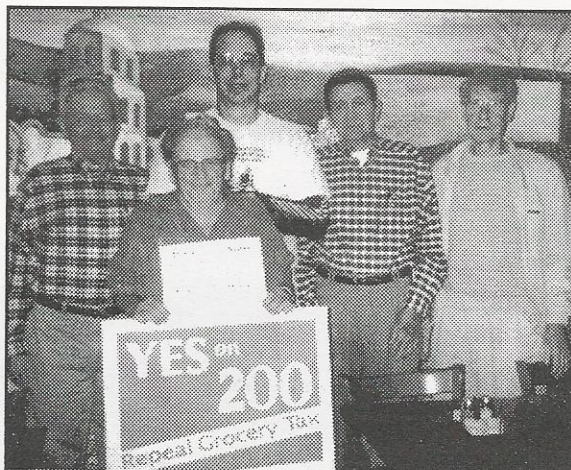
by Ari Armstrong

"We pulled it off!" Frank Atwood said after Littleton voters approved a plan to repeal the city's sales tax on groceries with November's election.

The 1% tax raised about \$600,000 per year for the city, or about 1.4% of the city's \$44 million budget. Atwood and other supporters of the repeal argued the tax placed an unfair burden on the poor and hurt local businesses.

The tax will be cut in half in 2004 and then repealed in 2005.

The repeal measure won with 62% of the votes, with 6,763 voting in favor and 4,135 voting against. The population of



Jim DuBose, Elwood Johnsen, Frank Atwood, Marty Bolt, and Dick Lemoine celebrate early election results late November 4.

Littleton is about 40,300.

Frank Atwood, a Libertarian activist, joined a diverse group to support the measure. "It takes teamwork," Atwood said: "Without a team, no one of us...could have pulled it off."

The core "tri-partisan" team consisted of Atwood, a Libertarian; Marty Bolt, a Republican; and Elwood Johnsen, a Democrat. Dick Lemoine and Jim DuBose were also central to the effort.

Continued on Page 5...

Contents...

2. Libertarian Activists Get Busy
3. Register for the 2004 Convention
4. Jumpstarting Economic Liberty
5. Freedom on Aisle One
6. Bruce Proposes New Tax Cuts
7. Pfiffner Addresses Denver LP

Libertarian Party of Colorado

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State Convention Planned for May

by Ari Armstrong

"We're going to play for a change," Elizabeth Johnson said of the state LP convention, to be held May 21-23 in Estes Park.



Elizabeth Johnson

Of course, the event will also feature training for candidates, top speakers to discuss the latest libertarian ideas, and the annual business meeting.

Johnson is organizing the event with the help of Michele Poague, Tom Parker, Greg Woods, and Shawn Elke Glazer.

LP Presidential candidates Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik plan to attend. Information about new speakers and the schedule will be added to lpcon2004.com.

Attendees are welcome to wear regular clothes to Saturday night's pajama party, Johnson pointed out. People will be encouraged to dress up as their favorite activist for Saturday's banquet, but that can be easy, too. "If you are your own favorite activist, come as yourself!" she encouraged.

The theme of the convention is "Faces of Liberty." "All of our heroes, they're all faces of liberty," Johnson explained, from Thomas Jefferson to Nathaniel Branden.

One confirmed speaker is Boston T. Party, author of the new novel, *Molon Label*, which describes what might happen if numerous libertarians moved to Wyoming. Though Boston collaborated with the Free State Project (FSP, at freestateproject.org) for a time, Boston is set on Wyoming, whereas the FSP announced October 1 its members voted to move to New Hampshire.

Continued on Page 5...

Libertarian Activists Spread Message in State

Viewpoint Distributed

At the state convention last spring, LPCO raised funds to distribute copies of the *Libertarian Viewpoint*, the national party's outreach publication, to people in counties where David Aitken did the best in his race for Secretary of State in the 2002 election. A pallet (32,000 copies) was purchased for about \$1,900 (including shipping).



About 7,500 copies were distributed in Park County in June at a cost of \$460. 6,000 copies were distributed in San Miguel County in October at a cost of \$600. Both distributions were made as inserts in local papers. The rest of the copies were given to local groups and activists. The board expects the results of this project to show up in the next election in these two counties. If you would like to see more outreach projects like this, please send your generous donation to the party office. **Joe Johnson** is shown with a copy of the *Viewpoint*.

Quiz Advertising in Denver

The Denver LP has started a project to give the World's Smallest Political Quiz to as many as 60,000 people in the next year

Go ahead Shock yourself

Think you know where you stand politically? You may be surprised. To find out, take the World's Smallest Political Quiz below. Ten fast questions. Just circle A for agree, M for maybe, and D for disagree.

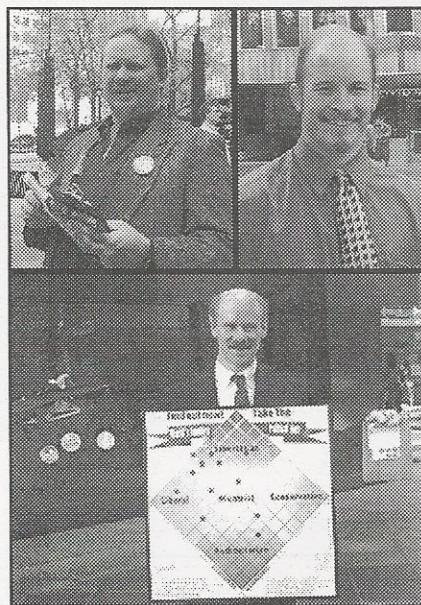
via advertisements in campus and local newspapers. Advocates for Self-Government designed the ad, and the Denver LP is collecting contributions to place the ad in one local newspaper every 3 months. The first newspaper to carry the ad will be *The Metropolitan* on the Auraria campus in downtown Denver. Other papers under consideration are *La Voz*, *Herald Dispatch*, *Urban Spectrum*, *Washington Park Profile*, and *North Denver Tribune*. Contributions are being accepted by David Aitken, 303.831.4334, daiken@tde.com.

Walking Quiz

Chris Leinster, **Rand Fanshier**, and **Scott Williams** (shown at right) meandered around the State Capitol on October 11 and earned nine Libertarian voter registrations.



On October 8, **Jeff Taton**, Leinster, and Fanshier (pictured below) gave people the quiz and handed out copies of *Libertarian Viewpoint*.



Libertarians Write *Denver Post*

On October 12, **Gary Halpin** wrote in a letter to the *Denver Post*, "Why are governments even involved when I want to trade with someone in a foreign land? True free trade and globalization have and would do more wonders in lower-priced goods and more wealth for all...That's why I vote Libertarian."

David Aitken wrote, "In 1735, publisher John Peter Zenger printed the truth about the British government and was charged with a crime. The jury refused to convict him, though he broke the law. Earlier, William Penn was charged with the crime of preaching about his religion. Again, the jury refused to convict. In the 1860s, many people were charged with the crime of helping slaves escape from their masters. Jury nullification meant most were not convicted..."

On August 15, **Norm Olsen** wrote, "Colorado government is precluded from incurring debt, the legislative session is limited to 120 days, all tax increases require voter approval, and revenue increases above certain limits must be refunded. The go-go 1990s produced distortions in the economy, which also infected the state budget."

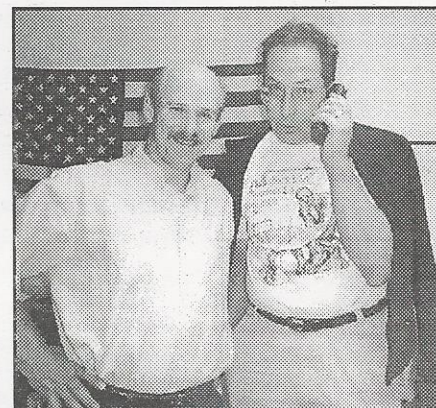
"Thanks to our limited government, our pain will be much less severe than that experienced elsewhere in this nation. Limited government has been proven to be a good idea. Even smaller government would be an even better idea. Citizens of Colorado must resist the temptation to change course now that the concept of small, limited government has proven its merit." The paper noted Olsen "is state chair of the Libertarian Party of Colorado."

Jeffco Previews Tax-Cut Drive

Douglas Bruce, author of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, addressed the Jefferson County LP via speakerphone October 1. He talked about his new effort to roll back a variety of taxes. On October 4, the Jeffco LP attended "Canyonfest" in Kittredge and hosted an outreach booth.

Monday Night Telethon

Libertarian Party Headquarters hosts a "Monday Night Telethon" from 6-9 pm. On October 6, callers rounded up volunteers to help out with the effort to repeal Littleton's grocery tax. **Rand Fanshier** and **Frank Atwood** are shown below.



Continued on Page 7...

The Face of Liberty

Holiday Special
Early Registration \$99

Libertarian Party Colorado Convention 2004

Estes Park, Colorado
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
May '21-'22-'23

The **Face of Liberty** appears again and again in this country's history, even before the statue was conceived. The Face of Liberty is everywhere we look, if we look. We are going to celebrate these faces, these **Faces of Liberty**. Please join us, register today.

Badnarik & Nolan
Presidential Candidate Hopefuls

Hurry!
Early Registration must be received
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'Free State Project' vs Boston's 'Wyoming Free State Project'
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- PTAK AWARD
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BRING YOUR SPARE CHANGE. THERE WILL BE A LADY LIBERTY BANK. IF WE FILL HER UP _____
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c/o Tom Parker (Reg. is being handled by LPBC Board member Tom Parker)
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This is a full convention & Banquet Ticket, this is far below cost, act now.

To reserve your room at the special rate, please call the Holiday Inn Estes Park @ (970) 586-2332 or 800-803-7837 if you are calling from out of state. Ask for the LP Convention Rate of \$72.

Question ? Call Tom at 303-665-2150 or www.lpcon2004.com

Jumpstarting Liberty at Denver Economic Forums

Denver LP—The politicians admit Denver is losing jobs and businesses and they don't know how to solve that problem, so they're asking us. Mayor John Hickenlooper, Councilor Doug Linkhart, and a gaggle of other Denver politicians hosted a series of four economic forums titled "Jumpstart Denver" and invited the public to attend.

Chris Leinster, Chair of the Denver Libertarian Party, attended a forum on October 29. "My agenda was to stealthily sway the discussion toward Libertarian solutions. To my delight, others in the group had the same agenda. They were mostly small business owners and developers who shared the common interests of lower taxes and much less regulation," said Leinster.

After about an hour of listening to introductory remarks, participants split into four groups to tackle the problem from different angles. Leinster sat in with the "Taxes and Regulations" group led by Linkhart. The other groups dealt with infrastructure, business development, and culture. Each group was tasked with brainstorming ideas to attract business to Denver, with emphasis on things that the

city could implement within the next six months.

Mostly, Leinster's group was disgruntled with the attitude of city workers, the myriad regulations, the redundant and conflicting agencies, and the time it takes the city to approve plans. When someone suggested it would be great to have one liaison to go to who could steer you through the process, Leinster asked, "Wouldn't it be better to eliminate the inane regulations and streamline the agencies so that you wouldn't need one more city worker to 'help' you do your job?"

Linkhart then asked about taxes. Leinster shot his hand up and said, "Slash them!" This got a few chuckles. However, Leinster added, "To my bewilderment, many were content to pay taxes and were even grateful that Denver was moderately taxed compared with other municipalities."

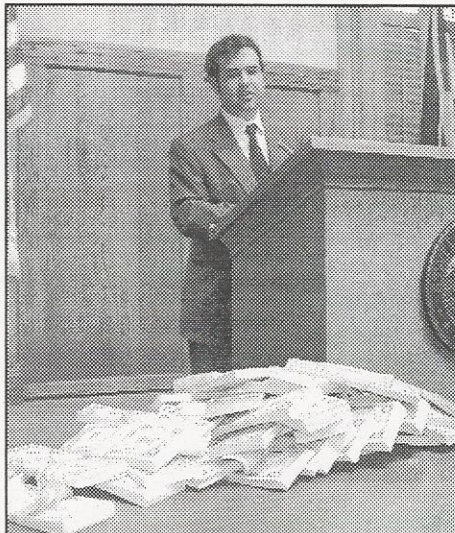
Each group then selected a participant to convey its conclusions to the entire assembly. Leinster jumped at the opportunity to convey the answers the city was looking for with a Libertarian spin. He said if Mayor Hickenlooper is going to announce that "Denver is open for business," then Denver has to let the

entrepreneur keep more of his own money, and that this was something the city could do tomorrow to jumpstart the economy.

In response to the proposal to give a new Wal-Mart a tax break, Leinster said, "We think this is a good idea, but its completely unfair to small businesses to assist only the richest corporation in America! We need to reduce taxes across the board, because ultimately that means more businesses, more jobs, more discretionary income, and a healthier economy."

The next forum was held November 5 at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Denver. Leinster convinced Gaar Potter (treasurer of the Denver LP), Severin Schneider (chair of the Arapahoe LP), David Aitken, and Scott Williams to attend.

Leinster encouraged other LP members to get involved in events like the economic forums: "The Libertarian Party acted as a massive counterweight to the more-tax-more-services crowd in attendance. It is within the power of each of us to be aware of policy forums such as Jumpstart Denver in our own communities, and to be a proactive force in political decision making."



Challenge to State Spending:

Stephen Rahe and the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, along with attorney Paul Grant and plaintiffs including Ari Armstrong, have sued over the use of "certificates of participation" to fund legislative projects without voter approval. For more information, see the CCJRC Web page at www.ccjrc.org.

How Libertarians Can Beat Zoning

by Jerry Van Sickle

Local building, zoning, and planning deal with down-to-earth property rights and what is probably the most economically significant power used by local governments.

The decisions about building and zoning codes by city and county officials can be appealed to appointed citizen boards. Most major projects are reviewed by staff members, then by these boards and county commissioners or city councils. Their decisions are likely to be supported by higher courts as long as proper procedures are followed.

Anyone may ask to see the issues beforehand and attend the hearings. I suggest that libertarians review the issues involved, pick those that seem most significant to us, and offer solutions that we believe are fair for everyone. Based on our basic beliefs, we'll focus on property rights, which should be at the core of land use decisions, but are usually ignored by non-

libertarian office holders and their hand-picked board members.

We should provide our input in writing to all those involved, then request that our input and any responses be kept in the official records.

We should ask to see previous decisions and their reasoning where similar issues were involved. Few are likely to be recorded in any detail or indexed for easy access. City and county attorneys may even insist that board decisions can only be "variances" or "exceptions," each one to be treated "on its own merits." This is unbridled discretion and political power, the very opposite of equality before the law or equal protection, a major ingredient of the rule-of-law.

Legislation and regulations can be quietly humanized or even replaced by principles that protect individual rights or demand compensation.

Please send any comments to Jerry Van Sickle, vansicklej@qwest.net, or 617 College Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

Freedom on Aisle One

... "Littleton" Continued from Page 1

In addition, Atwood got some help from other Libertarian Party members. According to Atwood, Rand Fanshier, Mike McKinzie, and Severin Schneider "helped in getting LP members to collect signatures with us and get the issue on the ballot. It's hard work circulating petitions. For me it was really tough, so it was wonderful to have LP members help on it."

Atwood said, "I'm grateful for the Montrose people who led the way." On July 15, 72% of voters in the Western Slope town voted to keep a 3.5% tax on groceries.

A variety of reasons may have led to greater support in Littleton: a multi-party team supported it, the tax in Littleton was smaller and a smaller percentage of the city budget, Montrose politicians threatened to propose a property tax increase to offset the grocery tax, and the Littleton proposal involves phasing out the tax over two years.

Mike Humbert, Chair of the Montrose group, wrote to Atwood, "On behalf of myself and the Western Slope Libertarian Party, I say congratulations on a job well done. Let us hope this becomes a trend. Rest assured we will address this issue again someday soon here in Montrose. We will take lessons learned from both our and your battle to heart and hopefully get a better result next time."

In a September 2 letter to the *Denver Post*, Tim Jacobs, also a member of the Montrose group, argued, "Property taxes in Montrose would not have been needed to replace sales tax revenue lost if the initiative had passed; Montrose's revenues have been and continue to grow by leaps and bounds. Indeed, TABOR [the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights] would have required voter approval to impose a property tax. A small measure of fiscal discipline would have been required, yes, and admittedly, that's a concept sorely lacking in Montrose city government."

Atwood said he also appreciates the help of Douglas Bruce, the author of TABOR, who offered advice in crafting the language of the proposal.

Will the effort to repeal grocery taxes extend to other cities? Atwood isn't sure. Most Colorado municipalities and counties still tax groceries.

Atwood said local activists might try to build on the victory in future years: "I think we'll be back."

Free State Debate in May

... "Convention" Continued from Page 1

Johnson believes a panel discussion on the matter will help people understand "why there are two alternatives and whether one is better than the other."

The FSP plans to initiate the move once its ranks have swelled from about 5,000 now to 20,000. In an open letter, Boston argues New Hampshire is already too populated for that many libertarians to make much difference, and Wyoming is more desirable for a variety of reasons. An FSP member to be announced will argue in favor of New Hampshire.

The LP's **National Convention** will be held May 27-31 in Atlanta. See www.lp.org for details. Contact Norm Olsen at 303.380.5809 to become a delegate!

Do You Want More Freedom? You Can Do It!

We're working hard to create a more Libertarian society, but we need your help.

The number one thing you can do is register to vote as a Libertarian. You can ask friends and family to register as Libertarian too.

You can volunteer to help with outreach and mailings. It's a great way to share ideas with like-minded people.

You can write letters to the editor of your local paper supporting libertarian ideas. Many small papers love to receive letters from the community.

You can run for office. If you don't think you have the skills, attend one of the Party's training seminars. We will teach you everything you need to know.

You can become a dues paying member of the Libertarian Party. Your \$25 membership includes National and State dues.

You can purchase a Bus Bench Ad. Imagine seeing a bold Libertarian ad on a bus bench in your neighborhood.

You can join the 1776 Club, our monthly pledge program. These regular dollars help us keep a newsletter in your hands and support our small office.

You can donate funds to the State party. All of our projects from membership outreach to candidate training are dependent on your voluntary donations.

Please help us do more for you.

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I can do this! Here's my contribution.

- ☐ My \$25 Yearly Membership ☐ My monthly pledge for \$ _____
☐ Buy a \$50 Bus Bench Ad ☐ State Party Donation of \$ _____
☐ I want to volunteer my time ☐ I want to run for office

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Colorado state law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$100 in a calendar year. Name and mailing address must be reported for each individual whose contributions aggregate \$20 to \$99 in a calendar year. The Libertarian Party of Colorado cannot accept any donations which fail to meet these requirements.

Bruce Seeks Help for New Tax-Cut Initiative

Douglas Bruce, author of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, is looking for people to gather signatures on two new initiatives. One initiative would cut various Colorado taxes; the second would protect the right to petition. Signature gathering will last until April 15, 2004.

Bruce is looking for volunteer and paid signature gatherers—he may be reached at taxcutter@msn.com or 719.550.0010. The issues will be decided in the 2004 elections.

"Paid circulators who follow our training can expect to earn about \$100 a day with no withholding. This would be a great



Douglas Bruce

fundraiser for a church, Libertarian group, etc. We need 100,000 signatures on each petition, and payment is on a per-signature basis," Bruce said.

The initial \$25 tax cut will increase \$25 annually and will apply to utility, vehicle, income, and property taxes. It will also include occupation (head) taxes and fees such as occupational licenses.

Individual taxpayers can opt to forego the tax cuts. The provision will amend existing TABOR language in Colorado's constitution.

The petition-rights initiative, also a

constitutional change, states, "Petition rights shall exist in all districts." This will expand the right to petition to counties, school districts, special districts, enterprises, and authorities.

"The initiative would establish a uniform set of rules for all state and local petitions. Persons who use taxpayer money to campaign for or against petitions would be fined and required to repay legal costs of both sides," Bruce said.

The provision will also ensure quicker resolution of single-subject disputes and require clear guidance for changing an initiative if it's found not to fit a single subject.

The initiative will limit the number of bills the legislature can pass as "emergency" measures without voter review.

Lamping to Unveil Nat'l Libertarian Coordinated Campaign

Libertarian candidates have a new campaign method to promote themselves in the next election cycle. Activist and consultant Richard Lamping will unveil his proposal formally at the Colorado Libertarian Convention in May. He calls the project the National Libertarian Coordinated Campaign (NLCC).

"The purpose of the NLCC is to advance the 'wedge issues' in federal campaigns around the United States," Lamping said.

Lamping took his lead from Dr. Nathaniel Branden, who stated the issues in order of priority during his speech to the Freedom Summit in Phoenix:

- 1) Establish a Flat Federal Income Tax
- 2) Privatize Social Security
- 3) End the War on Drugs

Lamping intends to propose and defend these issues, asserting that if championed by candidates far and wide, they can provide

the growth and media exposure the Libertarian Party needs to flourish, and become an even greater force for good policy.

Lamping said candidates participating in the NLCC will receive campaign consulting over the phone and via e-mail, literature and other campaign materials. Contributors to the NLCC will have a much greater likelihood of noticing their funds at work.

"We want to drive a polished, consistent message to the voters," Lamping said.

Lamping said the NLCC will be supporting campaigns with ready-made signs, literature, press releases, media and strategy. By coordinating campaigns, Lamping believes the candidates will be able to do their most important job, campaign.

The NLCC will ship literature and campaign materials based on a structured time-line, so each campaign is working

together with other campaigns in different parts of the country. "We will synchronize our efforts and our message," Lamping said.

Lamping may be contacted at M1group@peoplepc.com or 970.379.8448.

Nathan Hickson Deployed in Iraq

Nathan Hickson, a Libertarian from Colorado Springs, has been stationed in Iraq with the Army. His wife, Desiree, serves as Publications Director for the Colorado LP.

Ross Glidewell, chair of the El Paso County LP, met with the Hicksons before Nathan's deployment around the first of October. "I told him to keep his head down low and get back in one piece," Glidewell said. He noted this is Nathan's second deployment within a year—he also served in Korea—and it's unclear how long Nathan might remain in Iraq.

In late October, Desiree said she tries to keep busy and find support among other families with members in Iraq. She has been able to talk with Nathan several times, and they exchange letters. Desiree also homeschools the couple's three children.



Hickson

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CUT Pres. Addresses LP

...*"Libertarian Activists"* Continued from Page 2

Pfiffner Addresses Denver Libertarians



Penn Pfiffner (left), President of the Colorado Union of Taxpayers and a former state representative, addressed the Denver LP on September 16.

LNC Meets in Denver

The Libertarian National Committee met September 13-14 in Denver. Several local LP members attended the event. Shown here are **Joe Johnson**, **Elizabeth Johnson**,

Bette Rose Ryan (formerly Colorado's state chair and now an LNC member), and **Michael Dixon** (an at-large member from N. Carolina).



Nixed Plans

The LPCO board considered holding a special convention in early 2004 to propose a few changes to the party's rules, but that plan was dropped. The awards banquet originally scheduled for October 25 in Colorado Springs was canceled.



Conifair Draws LP

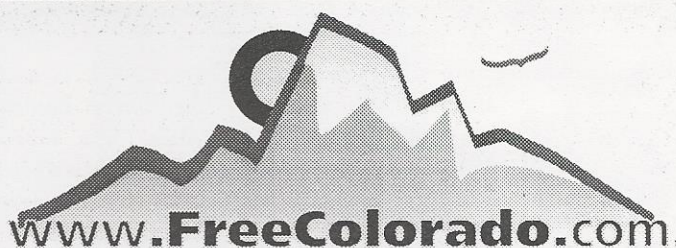
Libertarian **Mike Spalding** helped out with an LP outreach booth at the "Conifair" September 6, held at the Beaver Ranch.

Platform Group Considers Immigration

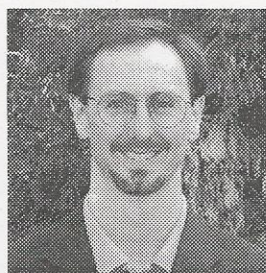
Headed by Michael McKinzie, a group working on changes to the LPCO's platform is contemplating the immigration issue. It's proposal states, "Much of the land along U.S. borders is private property. The LPCO staunchly defends private property rights, and...recognizes that no one has any right to trespass on private property."

The statement recognizes the positive contributions of immigrants, and argues "immigration harms us only when the immigrants take advantage of our openhanded welfare system by taking out more than they put in." The proposal suggests "working to make immigration a freedom of opportunity without a guarantee of a handout."

A two-thirds vote is required to pass platform language at the state convention. McKinzie may be reached at CampaignsDirector@lpcolorado.org.



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Ari Armstrong, Editor

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—**Louis James, Free-Market.Net**

...

"Ari Armstrong...works very hard to add original research to his opinion pieces."

—**David Kopel, Rocky Mountain News**

...

"Thanks for your latest report. I get barraged with e-mail messages, and your COFREE reports are among the few I actually read!"

—**David Nolan, LP Co-Founder**

...

"Thanks so much for the great article on my CU talk! Keep up the fight!"—**Boston T. Party**

Notes from the Chair: Libertarians Push Ahead

by Norm Olsen

There is little doubt that the Libertarian political movement suffered serious decline after the 2000 election. Ask a dozen people and you'll get 13 reasons why. Responses range from the poor economy to September 11.



Nevertheless, this decline has been reversed. National is not out of the hole yet, but it is now paying its bills again. Libertarian registrations in Colorado are now stable or increasing on a monthly basis.

As Chair, I'm invited to represent the Party at two or three non-Libertarian political events every month. *Colorado Liberty* is being published regularly and this issue describes a wide variety of activities and projects which have been initiated.

In this past election, Eva Kosinsky garnered 42% of the vote for city council in Louisville, and Jason Vallery garnered 28% of the vote for city council in Longmont.

Our recommendations to voters prevailed on all three statewide ballot issues. Isaac Davenport is starting a new outreach program in Boulder County. The Denver affiliate has adopted bylaws and elected officers and is meeting regularly. Attendance at Jeffco meetings is increasing impressively. Several candidates are preparing for next year's election. The bus bench ad graphic contest is in full swing; a fund raising effort is being built around the final selection. We've distributed over 28,000 copies of the *Viewpoint* tabloid and will exhaust our supply soon.

I bring these items to your attention to ensure that you know the Libertarian Party is alive and well. The principles and ideas we hold dear continue to gain acceptance and recognition. They have more appeal every time someone gets on an airplane, reads about the PATRIOT II act, or views a Democratic presidential debate.

To continue this growth, your active assistance is required. Campaigns Director Michael McKinzie has been forming an

active team to lead us into the 2004 election. Since we are a political party whose purpose is to elect Libertarians, this is entirely appropriate.

But "all politics is local." This is especially true for a small, struggling, minority party. The battle for recognition and electoral victory must be won at the local affiliate level. That means an active, dynamic, aggressive affiliate in every major county. In six months, Outreach Director Rand Fanshier has established or revitalized not fewer than five affiliates. He has more in the works.

However, without some serious and substantial assistance, he cannot make any additional progress without jeopardizing the progress already made. Rand has gone as far as he can go by himself, within the current budget. Join the effort. Call Rand (303.380.5810) or me (303.380.5809) and volunteer to be an Affiliate Coordinator. See the form on page 5 and join the 1776 Club. Let's help Rand get another two affiliates active by our May convention.

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